remaining, they are in the process of being provided.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) First meeting is proposed to be held during the 1st week of August, 1994.

Deterioration of telephone service in Goa due to substandard cables

917. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trousands of telephones in Panaji, Goa are out of order due to laying of substandard new cables in that exchange;

(b) the length and value of cables which have been found unusable;

(c) whehter any investigation is being conducted in this fraud to bring to book officials/contractors responsible for it; and

(d) by when all these cables are likely to be replaced and restored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) Sir, about 3000 telephones were affected due to cable breakdowns on account of cyclone on 5th June, 1994. Panaji was badly affected. The cable breakdowns were not due to substandard cables.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) All faults have since been cleared No cable is required to be replaced.

Postal Services in Andhra Pradesh

918. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh deliver the Registered Post Acknowledgement Due Slips very rarely;

(b) what are the reasons for poor quality of postal services in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the steps propsed to be taken to enhance postal services in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Quality of various postal servies being rendered in Andhra Pradesh is satisfactory. However, improvement in the service is an ongoing process. Attempts are always made not only to maintain efficiency in the postal services but to improve it.

Postal services in West Godaveri district in Andhra Pradesh

919. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleaed to state:

(a) what are the plans to improve postal servies in West Godaveri district Andhra Pradesh during in 1994 95;

(b) whether any new post offices are likely to be opened in West Godaveri during this year;

(c) whether it is a fact that many interior areas in West Godaveri are not properly served by postal department; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve postal servies in the district of West Godaver?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Improvement of the postal services is an ongoing process. Efforts are constantly made to maintain efficiency in the services in the area. 754 post offices are already functioning in various parts of West Godaveri district. Targets for opening of post

offices for 1994-95 are yet to be finalised.

(c) No, Sir. All villages are covered by postal services. Out of 810 gram pinchayat vilages, 602 have post offices. Of the remaining 208 villages only 2 villages justify post offices as per present norms.

(d) Question does not arise in view of replies to (a) to (c) above.

STD facilities in Andhra Pradesh

920. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the proposed steps to extend STD facility to more pla ces in West Godaveri District in Andhra Pradesh in 1994-95; and

(b) if so, the details of measures proposed to be taken to extend STD in Kest Godavari in 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) (i) Digital Trunk Automatic Exchange of 1000 lines capacity has been planned at Eluru in West Godaveri.

(ii) 7 more places namely; Paravalli, Veeravasaram, Vendra, Vegeswarapuram; Gundugolam, Koyyalagudem and Nallajerla in West Godaveri District are proposed to be linked to the STD network during 94-95 subject to the availability of resource such as funds equipment, land building etc.

Change in proecdure for allotting ISD/STD booths

921. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have changed the priority pattern for allotting the ISD/STD booths to the weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, the details with reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to review this decision;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereior?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(e) The policy of Department of Teleom. in the matters of allotment of STD/ISD payphone is in consonance with the programme of the Government to provide greater employment opprtunities to educated unemployed by way of allotment of payphones. However preference is given to the following categories of persons while selecting the allottees:

(a) Handicapped including blind persons.

(b) SC/ST applicants.

(c) Ex-servicemen/War Widows.

(d) Retired DOT employees or their dependent.

(e) Dependents of Freedom Fighters.

(f) Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

Waiting list of telephones in Karnataka

922. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of waiting list of Telephones in Karnataka;

(b) whether Government are committed to clear this waiting list by